



THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDEF
LT. GOVERNOR

June 14, 2006

Marshalltown High School

Dear Erendira Sanchez:

Congratulations on your election to the Iowa Youth Congress sponsored by the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs in collaboration with the Commission on the Status on African Americans and the Commission on the Status of Asian and Pacific Islanders Heritage.

Your decision to participate in the Youth Congress will prepare you to live up to the responsibility of citizens to be engaged and informed in order to strengthen and maintain a healthy democracy. Your participation in the Youth Congress is a wonderful opportunity to gain direct experience in how democracy works and public policy is formed.

As part of this experience, you will be faced with many challenges. These challenges will test your ability to debate, tolerate difference and dissent and find common ground. Throughout this process, I urge you to be true to our democratic values by making an effort to hear the many voices represented in the Youth Congress and working together to find the common purpose and action that can unite us all.

As a member of the Iowa Youth Congress, you will have many experiences that you will be able to draw on later in life. These experiences will help prepare you to fully participate in your community and be one of our future leaders.

Once again, congratulations and best of luck.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor


Sally J. Pederson
Lieutenant Governor